

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

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 in charge of U. S. National Museum

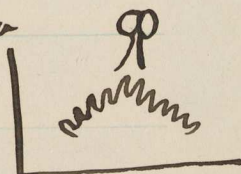
Washington, Decr. 17th, 1891

Dr. Sereno Watson.

Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Sir:

I have received your favor of 11th inst. —
 As for the *Obolaria* I am afraid, that I made
 a mistake, when I wrote to you about the position
 of the papillous scales. I looked in my macr. when
 I came home, and found my drawings of the flower.
 The scales are just situated one below each stamen,
 not in alternation with them, about as so



When I worked the plant up, I carefully compared
 my observations with Gray's *Chloris*, and there are
 some changes to be made and something to add
 also. *Obolaria* is probably saprophytic, as far as I
 over!

can see of the root-structure, and how may it be,
but hitherto I have been perfectly unable to cultivate
it, although I have been very careful. *Bartonia* is
undoubtedly parasitic; so are at least some specimens
I have received living from N. Ca.

As to *S. Pneumonanthe* in *Gentiana*, I think the
case of *G. abrotanica* will prove, that the capsule
is pseudotripitate^s, but the material in the National
Herbarium is rather defect, and fresh material will
be necessary. —

For three days I have got the charge of the entire
botanical library in our division, and I have now
found a number of papers from your hand. It has
given me the idea, that your new species ought to
be figured with the descriptions, as given, and some
day I may probably ask your opinion about the
publication of, *Plantae Watsonianae*^s. I should certainly
like to see the work done and published from the
Smithsonian. Yours very sincerely (Theo. Holm)